

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-5 and 14-15 have been indicated as being objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pollard in view of Zhu. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's allegations made in rejecting the claims, attached hereto is a certified English language translation of the priority document No. 1015943 filed August 16, 2000 in The Netherlands in connection with the above-identified application. Since the filing date of the priority document is before the U.S. filing date of Zhu, the English translation eliminates Zhu from qualifying as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and thus § 103. Thus, this rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

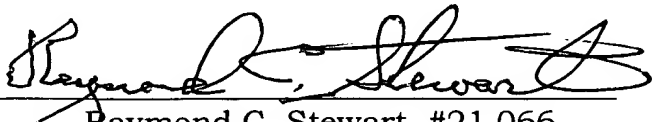
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicits an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, ~~KOLASCH~~ & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Raymond C. Stewart, #21,066

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22032-0747
(703) 205-8000


RCS/EHC:lmh

Attachment: Certified English translation of Priority Document